

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Dick Swett
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Swett:

This is in reply to your letter of February 11, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of

Honorable Dick Swett

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

Joseph Levin

Congressional

DUE OBC 5-25-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222

DICK SWETT
2ND DISTRICT
NEW HAMPSHIRE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2902

February 11, 1993

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PRB
92-235

649

Mr. James Quello
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
199 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I have received numerous letters from constituents worried about the impact of PR Docket 92-235, and I share their concern. While I recognize that the proliferation of Private Land Mobile Radio users and technologies necessitates the redivision of frequencies below 512 MHz, this proposal poses severe problems for those who build and fly radio controlled aircraft.

Specifically, PR Docket 92-235 calls for the redefinition of the frequencies these hobbyists can use between 72 and 76 MHz. I understand that this would effectively reduce the number of frequencies available to them from 50 to 19 while simultaneously putting even these frequencies perilously close to other PLMR users. This redefinition would require that the radio controlled aircraft hobbyists modify their equipment at great personal cost. This would be particularly unjust coming on the heels of a similar redefinition in 1991. The reduction of frequencies available would also limit the size of radio controlled "air shows", just as hobbyists are starting to enjoy the full use of their 50 channels.

Another concern is the reduction of channel spacing in the 72 to 76 MHz range. The low power and range of the radio control devices used by hobbyists render them particularly vulnerable to the more mobile, powerful and less carefully tuned transmitters of other PLMR users. When one considers that the larger model aircraft can weigh 30, 40, or even 100 pounds and travel at speeds in excess of 120 miles per hour, the seriousness of this issue becomes clear. The loss of control of one of these sophisticated machines could result in tragedy.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
128 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515-2902
(202) 225-5206

CONCORD DISTRICT OFFICE:
18 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-6621

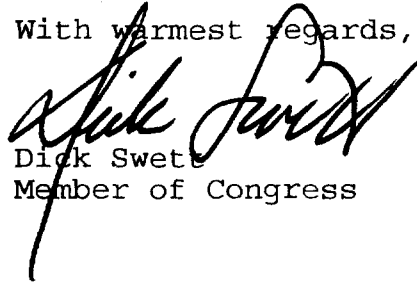
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5 Coliseum Avenue
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(603) 444-1321

Quello
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I hope you will take these concerns into account and keep radio controlled aviation a safe, fun and affordable hobby for all ages.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Swette". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dick Swette
Member of Congress